

Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

65. (previously amended) In a machine for mowing crop materials, the improvement comprising:

a cutter bed including a series of rotary cutters extending across the path of travel of the machine and rotatable about individual upright axes[;] ;

said cutter bed further including an elongated, transversely extending, generally flat, hollow gear case below the cutters;

a crop discharge opening located behind the cutter bed for receiving severed crop materials from the series of cutters[;] ;

a pair of transversely extending, oppositely rotating conditioning rolls disposed within and spanning said discharge opening above and behind the cutter bed for conditioning crop materials received from the cutters,

said discharge opening having a pair of opposite ends,

said series of cutters including a group of multiple pairs of intermediate cutters positioned in front of and aligned with said discharge opening with the first and last cutters of said group being located adjacent said opposite ends of the discharge opening,

said series of cutters further including at least a pair of opposite end cutters located outboard of the first and last cutters of the group and outboard of said discharge opening;

means for driving the cutters of said group in oppositely rotating pairs for directing severed material between the cutters of each pair and into the discharge opening, the first and last cutters of the group rotating generally inwardly toward the discharge opening across the front of the cutter bed; [and]

means for driving the end cutters in the same direction as their next adjacent first or last cutter of the group such that the end cutters and the first and last cutters of the group all rotate generally inwardly toward the discharge opening across the front of the cutter bed[.] ,

said means for driving the end cutters including gears within said gear case; and
a pair of upright, generally cylindrical impellers outboard of each of said opposite ends of the discharge opening,
each pair of said impellers being disposed higher than the cutters and rotatable in the same direction as one another such that front extremities thereof move generally inwardly toward the discharge opening.

67. (previously added) In a machine for mowing crop materials as claimed in claim 65,
each said pair of impellers including an outer impeller and an inner impeller,
said outer impeller being rotatable on the same axis as the end cutter and said inner
impeller being rotatable on the same axis as the next adjacent intermediate group
cutter.

68. (previously added and previously amended) In a machine for mowing crop materials
as claimed in claim 67,

said front extremities of the outer and inner impellers being generally in transverse
alignment with one another and generally parallel with a front edge of the cutter
bar.

69. (previously added) In a machine for mowing crop materials as claimed in claim 65,
said impellers each comprising a cage having a series of upright members arranged in a
circumferentially spaced pattern.